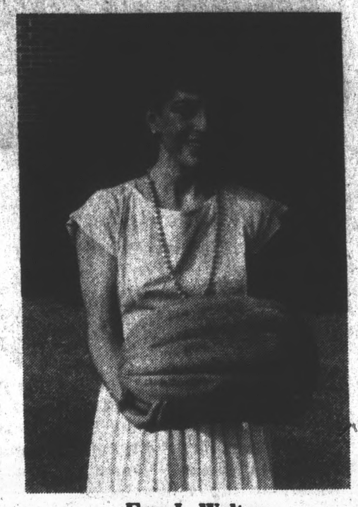
Appomattox County gardening tournament winners named

The "Great Appomattox County Gardening Tournament," sponsored by the **Times-Virginian**, came to a close on Friday, Sept. 21.

Appomattox County citizens were invited to enter any unusually large potato, tomato, pumpkin, watermelon, and cantaloupe in the contest. To qualify the produce must have been grown in Appomattox County, weighed at any local market or store using certified produce scales and an accompanying note certifying to the weight of the produce brought to the **Times-Virginian**. The response was excellent.

First place winners in each of the five categories, watermelons, cantaloupes, pumpkins, tomatoes and potatoes will receive $25.00 from the **Times-Virginian**.

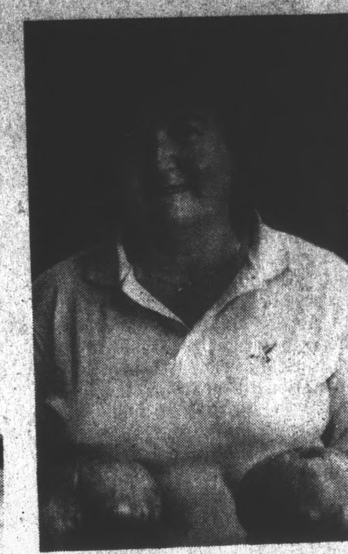
Ronald Thornhill
Watermelon



Ezra L. Walton
Cantaloupe

Al Cestro
Pumpkin

Robin Moore & Lindsay
Potato



Mrs. Owen Henderson
Tomato

In the watermelon category, first place went to Ronald Thornhill with a melon tipping the scales at 51 pounds. The second largest melon entered in the contest was grown by Eugene and Renee Franklin and weighed 49 pounds. Gloria Coles had a melon weighing 46 pounds while Richard T. Nash brought in a 45 pound melon. Laura Fisher entered a melon weighing 32 pounds. Congratulations, watermelon growers.

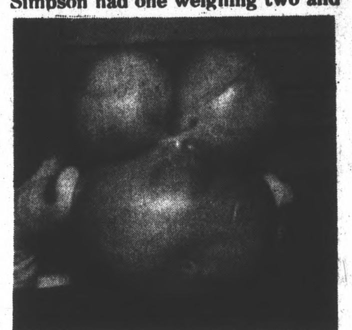
Ezra L. Walton won first prize for the largest cantaloupe, weighing 19 and one-quarter pounds. John Williams had a cantaloupe tipping the scales at 7.88 pounds. Congratulations.

Al Cestro was the first place winner in the pumpkin category with a pumpkin weighing 125 pounds. Bill Baldwin entered a melon weighing 91 pounds.Coming in third was S.E. Ranson with a pumpkin weighing 84 pounds. Robert W. Coleman entered a pumpkin weighing 77 pounds while Casey Fisher had a pumpkin weighing 50 and one-half pounds. Beverly Carter had a pumpkin weighing 32 and one-half pounds. Good growing folks.

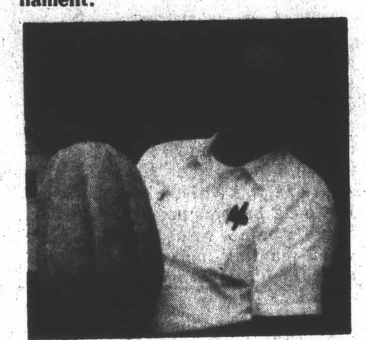
Winning first place in the potato category was Robin Moore and daughter Lindsay with a potato weighing 1.89 pounds. E.C. Cunningham entered a potato weighing 1.54 pounds. Congratulations.

Mrs. Owen Henderson entered the largest tomato and went away with first prize. Her tomato weighed 2.51 pounds. Harvey Simpson had one weighing two and one-fourth pounds. E.W. Hampton brought in a tomato weighing one pound and 14 ounces. Lawrence Webber, Jr. entered a tomato weighing 1.73 pounds and Horace and Marie Shirey grew a tomato weighing 1.67 pounds. Congratulations, tomato gardeners.

The **Times-Virginian** would like to thank gardeners in Appomattox County for their participation in the Great Appomattox Gardening Tournament.



A DOLLY PARTON TOMATO? That's the name given this most unusual tomato by the gentleman who brought it in to the Times-Virginian office.



RALPH SMITH OF RICHMOND proudly holds a 22 pound cantaloupe grown from seed given him by his uncle, Albert (Dick) Martin of Appomatox.

On curbing health costs

Congress takes steps

Congress has taken a major step toward curbing skyrocketing health costs, a representative of the nations largest organization of older Americans said last week. But the new law will not be effective,he said, unless health consumers know how to take advantage of it.

That why Bob Miner of Pamplin, and other members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are now teaching doctors and their patients about the new law through a public education program.

The law establishes the "Participating Physician Program", under which physicians must become "participating" or "non-participating" by Oct. 1, 1984. Participating physicians sign a written agreement to accept assignment (what Medicare considers a reasonable fee) on all medicare claims between Oct. 1, 1984 and Oct. 1, 1985.

Non-participaing physicians do not enter into such an agreement. Instead, they reserve the right to bill patients for an amount greater than Medicare allows. A freeze on fees through next October, enacted by Congress as part of the Participating Physician Program, prohibits participating and non-participating physicians from raising their charges to beneficiaries above the amount they charged in the second quarter of 1984.

Bob Miner offered these suggestions to Medicare beneficiaries and others interested in supporting this new cost control program:

1) Urge your doctor to agree to become a participating physician by the October 1, 1984 deadline;

2) Discuss fees with your doctor to understand how he/she charges patients for services;

3) Encourage others to seek out participating physicians for needed medical care. Names, addresses and specialities of participating physicians will be made available by the federal government through insurance compainies, local social security offices and aging organizations such as AARP.

Congress is encouraging participation by physicians through financial incentives it has added to the Medicare reimbursement system. For example, "allowable" or "reasonable" charges will be higher for participating physicians than for non-participating physicians. "Patients can offer additional incentives," Bob Miner said, "by supporting those doctors who participate."

Boby Miner urged Medicare beneficiaries and others to help make the law work. "Congress, in passing this law, said that 'Much of the success of the new Participating Physician Program will depend on the involvement of the Medicare beneficiaries nationwide.'"

For more information about the Participating Physician Program, contact Leslie Kramerich, Health Adovacy Services, AARP, 1909 K Street N. W., Washington, DC 20049.

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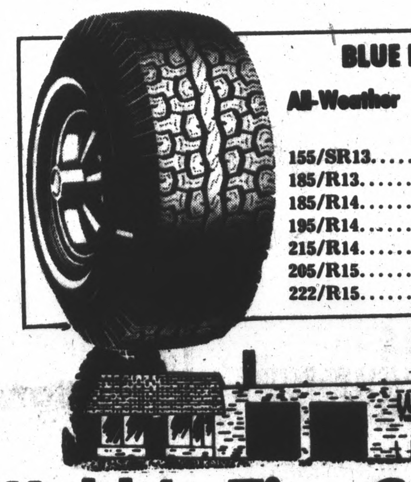

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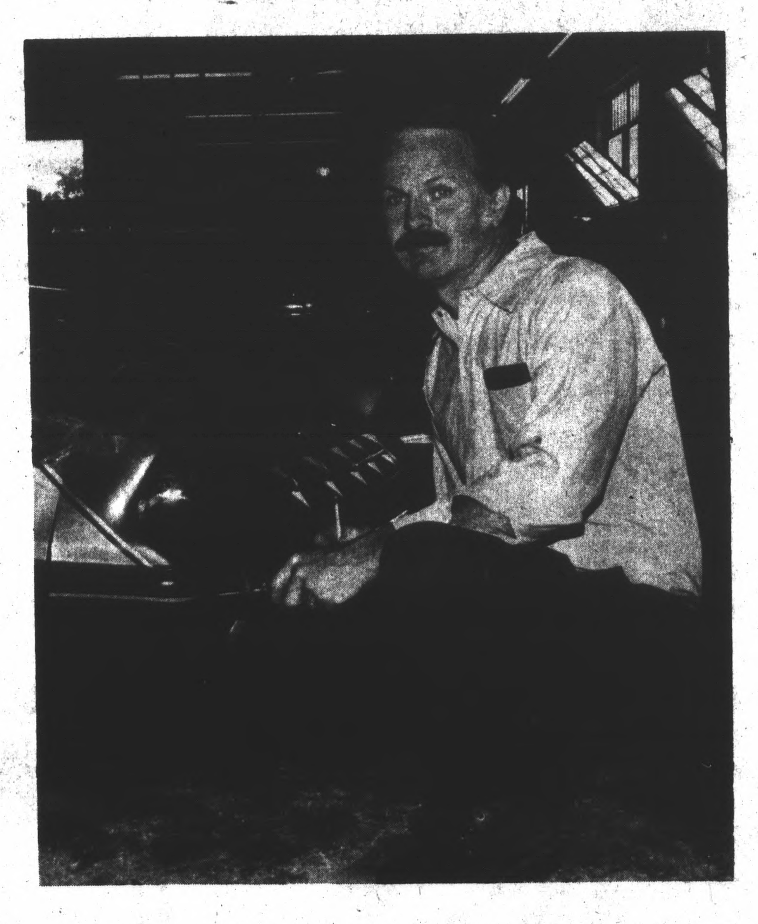

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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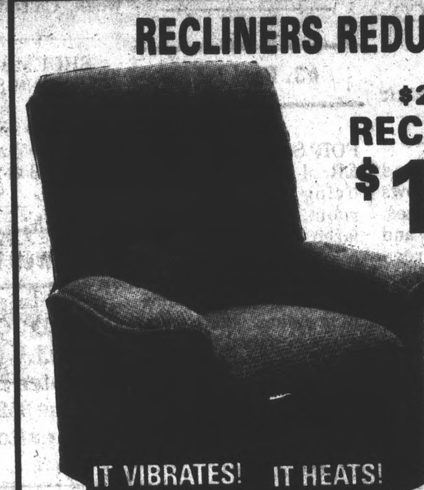

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